

## There Went Out A Sower To Sow (Mark 4:1-20)

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There went out a Sower to Sow (Mark 4:1-20)

Most years when I was growing up, my dad planted a garden. This was something we all worked at. Some more than others, but all had a hand in it. When I was pretty small mom decided to let me plant my own little garden that I could tend to on my own. When Dad tilled the little area near the Old oak tree near the house, I noticed when I touched the soil that it was harder, clumpier than the big garden. When the big garden was tilled, the soil seemed to melt around my hand. But my garden was hard and sharp to the touch. Mom and I put the seeds in anyway. I watered & weeded. I may have

gotten a few seeds to come up, but they were

The Stiffened Ground where the Seed was Stolen <sup>vs 4</sup>

vs 4. This way side was a walking path that people traveled along the harvest field. Right near the garden, at home, was our dirt basketball court, <sup>near dirt</sup> packed

A cluternal Hardness - Jesus interprets this soil of the parable in vs 15. Jesus is indicating that just like a seed lands on hard ground and merely sits on the surface and never gets down into the soil, so is the word

fate upon the one that is hard hearted, indifferent, unmoved and untroubled hearer. Luke 8:12 applies this to the lost specifically. How quickly can our hearts be come hardened, and when it is hardened, the word has no inward to produce

**B. Infernal Process** - 1. His seed lying on the hardened ground is vulnerable to being snatched away by the foul. VS 15. Jesus compares this to the work of Satan. Satan's whole endeavor is to deny the word a chance to penetrate the heart. 2 Cor 4:3-4. Satan's desire is to snatch away the seed. And when <sup>3</sup>the heart is hardened, his job is that much easier. Remember.. Be ware sinner of heart becoming hardened more and more. Could this also apply to believer. <sup>receive life...</sup> Hard heart

**II. The Shallow Ground where the Seed was Sown**  
VS 5 + 16-17. This soil was evidently was a thin layer of soil on top of a rock shelf, which was very common for that area. notice some thing about the <sup>area</sup>

**A. Germination of the Seed** - note in vs 5 "strange up" VS 7 "grew up" VS 8 "sprang up" all three seeds here something in common happened. The seed germinated, life was. Turn to the parallel passage in Luke 8:13 + 12. Some were believed. Life begins at germination. I am convinced that once a person repents + believes, they receive eternal life. This new growth is stunted, by hardness of rock, superficial. Do you know some that are superficial in <sup>reception</sup>

**B. Tribulation of the Shoot** - This shallow superficial reception is not enough to aith stand the onslaught of persecutor and affliction for our beliefs. Persecutor, affliction tribulation have a way



- 1) **Intro** : ...but they were short lived. Mom said the rabbits got them. But the rabbits didn't get the big garden. What was the problem. I believe dad was in a hurry and really didn't prepare the soil for the seed. The soil is very important in having a fruitful harvest. Well that is exactly what the Lord Jesus is telling us in this parable.  
Remember a parable has one main point. It is heard not studied over. What is that main point: Despite the fact that the seed was not fruitful in every soil, nevertheless some seed were fruitful! But upon closer inspection, we can see some more insight in the reception of the word of God. Notice first:...
- 2) **2 Corinthians 4:3-4** But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.
- 3) ...**Remember** those who have a softened and responsive heart shall be given more, but those who have a hardened heart shall have what little that is given to them taken away.

of uncovering the superficial receipts of the word, and although the soil may look good on the outside, the proof of the hardness of heart is in the produce - the fruitfulness.

III. The Swarming Ground where the Seed was Strangled  
vs 7+18-19. At the end of gardening season when we've picked about all the green beans we can the garden would just be let go. We <sup>could do so ourselves</sup> grow so high you <sup>can</sup> see it.

A. Crowding of Our Years - Again we see life. Germination, a believer possibly a believer whose days and years become cluttered and crowded with the distractions of the world. Oh how easy it is in this day and time when the world is on an information over load, and we are constantly connected to the world around us the cares lust and desires of the world can crowd out the <sup>word</sup> receiving heart. We are to fight this over crowding problem.

B. Constructing of Our Yield - it specifies this says that this soil was unfruitful. There was life, germination, yet the fruit that was to be there was shaken out. I have been so guilty of being unfruitful and checked by the distractions of worldliness. We must guard the soil of our heart, to keep our priorities centered on the Lordship of Jesus Christ our savior and His Kingdom, the fruit of His



#### IV. The Sufficient Ground where the Seed was Successful

Then finally there is that good ground, I always loved to walk bare feet in the garden after dad tilled it. How soft and cool it was <sup>seed</sup> ready for

A. The Soil that is Fertile - This soil was prepared. This soil was broken this soil was ready. It was fertile. The Lord Jesus is displaying hearts before us. There may be some question as to the spiritual condition of the shallow and the Swarming soil, but not this one. We should endeavor to stay as far away from Shallow and Swarming that there will be no question, I've been at funerals before, question, <sup>T</sup> Was he or she saved? →

B. The Sun that is Fruitful - Good ground will produce fruit. Admittedly there were varying degrees of fruitfulness. But yet 30, 60, 100 fold. What an increase, What a harvest! Do you want a fruitful life? How is the soil of your heart? Crowded? Calloused? Shallow? Stony? The life that is most productive comes from the heart that is most responsive.

V. Closing - It is amazing how the conditions of soil vary from place to place. Baskethall can't hard as rock, yet a garden of fruitfulness a few yards away. Ho 10:12 Says Break up fallow ground. <sup>Change your</sup> Soil;

- 1) ...Was he or she saved? Upon our death, let their be no question, let their be no arguments by our lives willing response to the word of God.